



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE

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USDA TO CONDUCT SHEEP, GOAT, AND CATTLE SURVEYS IN JANUARY

DENVER, COLORADO – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be conducting surveys of sheep, goat and cattle operations nationwide during the first two weeks in January.

“Every January and July the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts the Sheep and Goat Inventory and Cattle Surveys to measure and report current conditions and trends in the U.S. sheep, goat, and cattle industries,” said Bill Meyer, director of the NASS Colorado Field Office.

“Timely and accurate data on sheep, goat, and cattle inventory and production allows USDA and the industry to be more responsive to the American and international public, increase consumer understanding and awareness, and establish an appreciation for the benefits of U.S. sheep, goats, and cattle and their products,” added Meyer.

Selected sheep and goat producers in Colorado will be contacted by the NASS Colorado Field Office during the first two weeks of January and asked to provide information on the number of breeding and market sheep and goats, lambs and kids born during the previous year, as well as mohair production, wool production and prices. Meanwhile, cattle producers will be asked to provide total inventory, number of beef cows, milk cows, bulls, replacement heifers, other heifers, steers, calves, and number of calves born during the previous year.

Producers selected for these surveys will have the option of responding via telephone, mail, Internet, or personal interview with a local NASS representative.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all survey responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

NASS survey results will be published in the *Sheep and Goats* report and the biannual *Cattle* report, both scheduled for release on January 29, 2010. The reports will provide state and national level estimates relevant to the sheep, goat, and cattle industries. These and all NASS reports are available online at: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Colorado Field Office at (800)392-3202.

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